

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An audio system includes a housing. Within the housing, a processor is communicably connected to a compact disc drive, a user interface, a hard drive, and an audio output. Optionally, a tuner and memory may be connected to the processor and disposed within the housing. A face plate including a portion of the user interface may be removably attached to the housing. The processor is configured to read data from a compact disc within the compact disc drive or from the tuner. The processor can encode the data into digitally formatted files, and store the files within the memory or hard drive. The processing means can read, encode, and store the data at a rate equal to or faster than the normal rate of play of the data. The processing means can produce an audio signal representative of the data in one of the files stored within the memory or hard drive.